

# Safety On The Road

## Safety In Reverse

Motor vehicles can be operated much more safely when they are moving forward than in reverse.

Don't back up unless you have to. Avoid backing up by parking so you can leave going forward. If you have to back into a spot, use forward travel as much as possible to position your vehicle before backing up.

If you miss your destination, do not back up. Instead, go around the block and try it again.

Before backing a vehicle, make a circle check by walking around the vehicle looking for possible obstructions.

Use mirrors to see as you back, not an open door. Adjust mirrors before backing.

Use a backup alarm, but do not rely on someone else to hear and respond to it. Likewise, do not rely on flashing lights and sounding the horn...use them as an added precaution.

If there is more than one employee, have one act as a guide when it is necessary to back up. The guide should stand to one side where he can be seen clearly by the driver,

and should use proper hand signals. Voices are easily drowned out by the noise of traffic. Do not have the guide stand behind the vehicle or between the vehicle and an obstruction such as a wall where he could be crushed. The guide should have a clear and continuous view of the path the vehicle will follow.

### **Here are some more reminders about safe backing:**

- Even with a guide, backing up is the responsibility of the driver who is in control of the truck.
- In busy yards, a traffic controller on a platform should spot and signal traffic.
- Back slowly and cautiously from the time the vehicle is put in motion until it stops.
- Watch for and be prepared for any change in conditions during the movement.
- If you become unsure where you are as you back up, stop immediately and check your surroundings.
- If you have a choice in the direction you will be backing, try to back in from the driver's side

because it will be easier to see where you are going.

- When backing a tractor and trailer unit, the steering wheel must be turned in a direction opposite to the way you want the rear of the trailer to move.

Foot traffic should be kept to a minimum in an area where vehicles are backing. Barricades and foot traffic corridors should be used to control pedestrian traffic in congested areas. Other drivers should stay in their cabs or move to a driver lobby in the terminal.

As a pedestrian, be constantly alert for moving vehicles and machinery. Be aware the driver may not be able to see you until it is too late.

Backing accidents result in damage to other vehicles, docks and materials. They can also cause death or serious injury to pedestrians.

*Forward is definitely better than backward when it comes to driving. Avoid situations where you have to back. If you must do so, move slowly and carefully, remaining aware of blind areas around your vehicle.*

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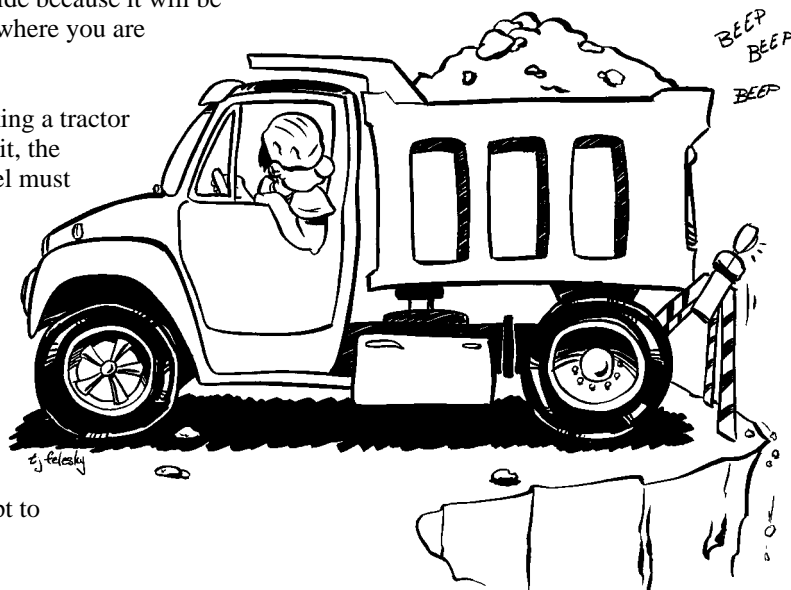
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